Attorney's Docket No.: ___4524.P020___   Patent

In re the Application of: ___Ronald D. Steiger___
                                                        (inventor(s))
Application No.: ___09/894,189___

Filed: ___June 27, 2001___

For: ___OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE ERROR CORRECTION CODING___

                                            (title)

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR: Transmitted herewith is an Amendment for the above-referenced application.

_____ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

___X___ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) Claims Remaining After Amd.		(Col. 2) Highest No. Previously Paid For	(Col. 3) Present Extra	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
					Rate	Additional Fee	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	* 44	Minus	** 44	0	X9	$ -	X18	$ 0
Indep. Claims	* 5	Minus	*** 5	0	X43	$ -	X86	$ 0
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim(s)					+145	$ -	+290	$ 0
					Total Add. Fee	$ -	Total Add. Fee	$ 0

*   If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry In Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on _____December 15, 2003_____
                    Date of Deposit

___Christina Fernandez___
        Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

___Christina Fernandez___   ___December 15, 2003___
            Signature   Date

                                    - 1 -   (09/30/03)

_____ A check in the amount of $_____ is attached for presentation of additional claim(s).

_____ Applicant(s) hereby Petition(s) for an Extension of Time of _____ month(s) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

_____ A check for $_____ is attached for processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

_____ Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>02-2666</u> the amount of $_____.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

__**X**__ The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>02-2666</u> **(a duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed)**:
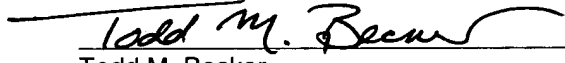
    __**X**__ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

    __**X**__ Any extension or petition fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _12-15-03_

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(09/30/03)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ronald D. Steiger

Serial No.:   09/894,189

Filed: June 27, 2001

For: OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE ERROR CORRECTION CODING

Docket No.:   4524.P020

Examiner: Stephen M. Baker

Art Unit: 2133

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Technology Center 2100

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A (37 C.F.R. § 1.111)

Sir:

     This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2003, for the above-noted patent application.

     Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner do the following with this amendment:

1.   Please enter the amendments to the specification, if any, found in section I below.

2.   Please enter the amendments to the claims, if any, found in section II below.

3.   Please consider the specification amendments in section I and the claims listed in section II in view of the remarks found in section III.